

Kennedy
spares
blushes

ONLY a last minute penalty by Howard Kennedy spared Wycombe's blushes in the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup final against Hungerford at Marlow on Monday.

With time running out, Blues were trailing 2-1 to a side who play two divisions lower in the Isthmian League. But then Mick Holifield was brought down after a tricky run and Kennedy slammed home the equaliser in the final seconds of extra-time.

After 90 minutes the score stood at 1-1 with Blues cancelling out Hungerford's first score, only ten minutes from the end through Stewart Atkins.

So Hungerford, both of whose goals were scored by Andy Young twice looked like lifting the trophy for the first time only to be denied by a Wanderers side that refused to die.

A full report of this dramatic cup-tie and full new of the holiday sport will appear in the Bucks Free Press published Friday.

The Senior Cup replay will be held at Slough Town on Thursday April 26, starting at 7.30 p.m.

Scott's 'flier' seals yet another win

by MICHAEL KNOX Wycombe Wands 2, Tilbury 0

HOWARD Kennedy's first league goal of the season and a brilliant diving header from Terry Scott took Wycombe to the most comfortable of wins against Tilbury in the Berger Isthmian League game at Loakes Park on Good Friday.

Wycombe were so much in command that goalkeeper John Maskell was at his busiest during a break for an injury when he stepped on to the terraces to sign autographs.

He had just one save to make throughout the 90 minutes as Blues cantered through the sunshine to pick up three more points. Why then didn't Blues win by a convincing margin?

There were two basic

reasons. First, with a busy Easter programme ahead of them they did not want to over-exert themselves and secondly they were faced by one of the most promising goalkeepers in the league in 17 year old Peter Mills.

Brilliant

Mills, who joins Bournemouth next season, made two dazzling saves in the second half as Blues threatened to start a rout and his general handling and agility kept Wycombe at bay for long periods.

It needed something special to beat him and both Wycombe's goals were brilliantly executed in contrasting styles.

The first came after 35

minutes of somnolent action and followed the most concerted move of the whole game. Stewart Atkins, who started in mid-field with Les Reed relegated to substitute began the move with a break down the right, and crossed dangerously in front of goal.

Steve Long kept it in play on the left and scooped it back to Evans on the edge of the goal area. Instead of shooting himself, Evans kept cool and slid the ball to his right where Kennedy rifled it in from close range.

It is astonishing that Kennedy had not scored a league goal previously this season.

Wycombe continued to control the match after the break and but for Mills

would have gone well clear. First Scott saw a strong header tipped round the post after good work by Evans. Then the goalkeeper saved well from Mick Holifield, whose workrate deserved a goal.

But the pressure eventually told in the 59th minute, with one of the most spectacular goals Wycombe have scored all season.

A major share of the credit must go to Atkins, who is turning out to be more than just a goal scorer. He has made as many for others as he has scored himself.

Full-length

This time he set it up with an early cross on the run from the right and Scott dived full length to send a low header skidding past the helpless Mills.

It seemed odds-on that Blues would pick up another £40 bonus but the match slowly petered out with only another booking for Tilbury's Les Cobb (dissent) to add interest to the proceedings.

WYCOMBE: J. Maskell; P. Birdseye, R. Davies, K. Mead, S. Hardwick, D. Evans, S. Atkins, M. Holifield, S. Long, H. Kennedy, T. Scott. Sub: L. Reed (not used).

TILBURY: P. Mills; A. Rowell, P. Currie, M. Linton, D. Barnett, N. Binks, S. Coventry (sub; T. Sharpe 77 mins), P. Keeping, N. Smith, K. Gray, L. Cobb.

Referee: D. Hedges (Oxford).

Attendance: 750.

Half-time: 1-0. Scorers: Wycombe —

Kennedy (35 mins), Scott (59).

Wycombe completed the Isthmian League double over Leatherhead on Saturday, when an 88th minute goal from Steve Long gave them a deserved 2-1 victory.

Howard Kennedy gave Wycombe an early lead which Chris Kelly equalised before half-time. Long, who came on as substitute for Mark Judd, netted the winner from close range after good work by Stewart Atkins on the right.

Full report in Friday's Bucks Free Press.



The bearded Steve Hardwick fires the ball into the net only to have the effort disallowed for off-side in the second half of the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup final at Marlow on Monday.